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A police patrol car blocks traffic at the scene of a homicide on the 100-block of 25th Street West on Tuesday morning. Police responded to a call about gunshots shortly after midnight and discovered the body of a woman outside an apartment building. Inset: Police spokeswoman Kelsie Fraser updates reporters near the scene. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Police investigate Saskatoon's third murder of 2014

'Two gunshots fired.' Residents evacuated after woman's body found outside building on 25th Street West

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Saskatoon police are investigating the city's third homicide of the year after a woman's body was found on 25th Street West following a report of gunshots.

Investigators from the major crimes and forensic identification units were at the scene outside Caswell Manor on the 100-block of 25th Street West on Tuesday morning, alongside members of the emergency response team as a precaution.

"There was, we believe, two gunshots fired, so the indication of a firearm is still a safety concern for us," police spokeswoman Kelsie Fraser said.

Fraser said the building was evacuated to ensure that the potential shooter was no longer in the area.

"Major crime and forensic identification will then resume their activities in determining what happened and collecting evidence as well as interviewing any witnesses," she said.

Police said the body was found outside the building, though they believe the incident occurred inside. They had little information on the victim or potential suspects.

Raylene Roy-McLeod heard the shots from her mother's Caswell Manor apartment. She heard "people running in the halls and then two gunshots," she said.

"Then all of a sudden there was police outside with search dogs and guns."

Lori McLeod, Roy-McLeod's mother, said that police arrested a man and a woman on firearms charges earlier this month at the same building.

"I don't think my family will let me go back in there," she said.

"It's too frightening for my two little kids."

Traffic restrictions were in place on 25th Street West while police investigated.

Police are asking anyone with knowledge of the incident to contact them.

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Not a freak occurrence

Deluge maxes out sewer system

The City of Saskatoon says a supercharged downpour on Monday evening resulted in a surge in the sewer system, causing streets to flood and manhole covers to pop.

With between 15 to 20 millimetres of rain falling in a half hour period and peak intensities of 100 millimetres per hour recorded, officials said Monday's downpour topped out the system.

"When that sort of thing occurs, our storm water system is not designed to be able to keep that water within the pipes," said Andrew Hildebrandt, Saskatoon's senior storm water engineer.

"It comes out into the streets, which is what we saw yesterday."

Extra crews were brought in to help deal with 73 reports of clogged catch basins and 37 popped manhole covers.

Although crews cleaned a number of catch basins following Monday's downpour, Hildebrandt noted this kind of incident will likely happen again.

"In general, this actually is a result of the rain storm just being too intense for the system to take," he said.

"What we want to do in the meantime is just understand the extent, understand the problem locations and continue to address these situations one at a time."

The city is advising drivers and pedestrians to be patient when it comes to flooding, as exposed manholes can be hidden dangers.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Outside Saskatoon's Henk Ruys Soccer Centre, volunteers with the Saskatchewan Red Cross help Stanley Mission residents onto a bus set to take them home on Tuesday. Inset: evacuees board a bus bound for the northern community. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Evacuees return home in wake of forest fire

Stanley Mission First Nation. Firefighters, rain keep community out of harm's way

About 1,000 people who had left a northern Saskatchewan community because of a forest fire began returning home on Tuesday after an evacuation order was lifted.

Rain and backburns by firefighters had stopped the blaze from advancing toward Stanley Mission First Nation, prompting the end of the evacuation.

"It feels pretty good that the town didn't burn," said Stanley Mission resident Cassie McLeod, one of the evacuees leaving Saskatoon's Henk Ruys Soccer Centre.

"We were just worried that the houses would burn because it was so close to town."

Julie Roberts, who came to Saskatoon for her son's medical appointment, said she was "anxious" to get back.

"On Thursday we were going to head back," she said, "and then they said, 'Don't come home.'"

Colin King, deputy emergency management commissioner, said those with their own vehicles began returning on Monday night. Others went home by bus on Tuesday.

Residents at higher risk, such as seniors, pregnant women, young children and anyone with respiratory problems, are to go home on Wednesday.

The evacuation was ordered this past weekend as the fire threatened power lines and the only road into the community, about 460 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon.

Steve Roberts, provincial executive director of wildfire management, said crews were continuing to fight the blaze, while sprinklers that had been placed around the community were removed because of the lower risk.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

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Students wonder what's next for U of S

Following a tumultuous series of events at the University of Saskatchewan that included the firing of former president Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Metro hit campus to see if people think the school can recover. While acting president Gordon Barnhart says the controversial TransformUS cost-cutting process isn't about to be completely eliminated, the plan moving forward is to address any budgetary deficit in a "less painful" way than in the past.
Here is what some in the community have to say:

JACOB MORGAN
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Kimberly Davy, 27, recent masters graduate, School of Public Health

"I definitely think that the campus community will be able to recover. It's unfortunate everything that's been going on and the bad publicity the U of S has been receiving, but we definitely have the ability to recover. Hopefully the new leadership can push that forward."

Tess Mills, 20, biology student

"I don't think it could get much worse than (what's) happened already. I think it can only get better from here."

Austin Arvay, 19, arts and science student

"Time will tell. We're going in the right direction with that protest in the Bowl last week but who knows if it will continue. I think people just need to care more. It seems like people say they care but don't actually do anything about it."

Daniel Hogan, 25, computer science masters student

"There's still the deficit and they still have to deal with that. I think (Busch-Vishniac) got stuck with a lot of the negative reaction resulting from that, and maybe this new president represents a sign that they'll be listening more to the student body. That's a bit of a success but ultimately you know they're still going to have to cut costs somewhere."

Aravind Ravichandran, 18, physics student

"It depends on who is coming and the position of the (next) president. It depends on that person entirely. We may have a person like before. We don't know ... I hope they will spend more on research."

Renée Yanko, 60s, library technician

"I think that the changes that have happened are a good thing for the university and I think it will take a while before we see full recovery — if we ever do — but a lot of changes still need to take place. I think that the administration needs to be looked at and I think they need to slow down on TransformUS, take a close look at that and I hope (having) a new president will help the situation."

Community rallies around Regina boy suffering from mystery illness

Kieran Vermeulen. Family and friends of 12-year-old organize fundraisers after he was rushed to hospital

SARAH TAGUIAM
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Reginans are rallying behind the family of a local boy as he struggles to recover from a debilitating ailment that doctors have been unable to diagnose.

Described as a ball of energy, Kieran Vermeulen spent much of his time playing hockey, soccer and volleyball until early May, when the 12-year-old collapsed at school and was rushed to the pediatric intensive-care unit at Children's Hospital of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

"I just want to see him smile," Kelly Vermeulen-Jackson told Metro on Tuesday of her son, who has experienced a string of seizures, a brain injury and breathing difficulties while in and out of a coma.

"And want him to focus and recognize me longer than 20 seconds, so I know that maybe there's hope he'll be OK."

Doctors haven't pinpointed what Kieran is suffering from.

"They don't even know how much he'll recover," Vermeulen-Jackson said. "Or if he'll ever walk or talk again."

Kieran's situation has prompted many in Regina to try to raise money to assist his mother and her husband, city deputy fire chief Layne Jackson, during their family's ordeal.

"I had to do something," said family friend Leah Kew, who has organized a silent auction and two sold-out steak nights at Nicky's Cafe.

"It's just wonderful to have all the support," Vermeulen-Jackson said, noting that her son was returned by ambulance to Regina last week.

"We're just hoping that he'll continue fighting like he has."

Kieran's hockey team has held a bottle drive, while his Grade 7 class at W.S. Hawrylak School has established a fund at Conexus Credit Union under his name.

Doctors still haven't discovered what Kieran Vermeulen is suffering from. FACEBOOK

George–
Thank you for bringing joy to the people in your life. You will be missed. Rest in peace.
With love,
Your childhood neighbor

A note addressed to George Chen, 19, one of the victims of Friday's mass murder at the University of California at Santa Barbara. CHRISTOPHER WEBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa man among victims of massacre at California school

Speaking through tears. George Chen's parents told a U.S. news station the country needs tougher gun laws

A 19-year-old man from Ottawa has been identified as one of the victims of Friday's mass murder at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

George Chen, who was studying computer science, was a graduate from Leland High School in San Jose, Calif., and one of six people killed.

Quoted

"We would die a hundred times, a thousand times, but we don't want our kids to get hurt."

George Chen's mother, Kelly Wang

Family friend Sherry Shih told the San Francisco Chronicle that Chen was a gentle soul who had a fondness for working with children.

Shih said Chen was a "very good kid, very smart," and that his parents are in a "very, very sad mood" and unable to speak about what happened.

Chen's parents visited a makeshift memorial on Monday night and added their names in chalk to the sidewalk.

They told KABC-TV that the United States needs tougher gun laws to avert another mass killing.

"We would die a hundred times, a thousand times, but we don't want our kids to get hurt," George Chen's mother, Kelly Wang, said as she spoke through tears.

"This shouldn't happen to any family."

The man identified as the killer, Elliot Rodger, died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head after a shootout with police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lacandon jungle

Environmentalists freed in Mexico

Two Mexican environmentalists have been freed after they were briefly kidnapped by settlers seeking to carve up North America's last large pocket of tropical rain forest, their group said Tuesday.

The kidnapping follows the two-day abduction and subsequent release of a former federal environment secretary in a different part of the jungle a month ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colombia

Chocolate addict gets jail time

A self-declared chocolate addict has been sentenced to five months in one of Colombia's harshest prisons for swiping $8 worth of candy bars.

Luis Augusto Mora was caught stealing two boxes of locally made Jumbo bars at a Bogota supermarket. After confessing, Mora was sentenced to La Picota prison, home to some of the country's most hardened criminals and drug-traffickers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamil Mahuad

Arrest warrant issued for former Ecuador president

Ecuadorean authorities say an arrest warrant has been issued for former president Jamil Mahuad for allegedly misappropriating public funds during the country's late 1990s banking crisis.

Interior Minister Jose Serrano announced Tuesday via Twitter that the international police agency Interpol had issued an alert about the warrant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Every share made the difference’

Trois-Rivières, Que. Parents grateful after spread of Amber Alert on social media leads online sleuths to help locate missing baby

The mother of a day-old infant snatched from a Quebec hospital says she’s grateful to everyone who helped bring home her baby — especially the group of people who used social media to hunt down the alleged kidnapper.

Police issued an Amber Alert on Monday night after the newborn was abducted from the mother’s hospital room in Trois-Rivières by a woman allegedly wearing scrubs and posing as a nurse.

The alert, which included a security-camera photo of the suspect and a description of her car, was splashed across mainstream and social media within minutes.

Four young locals wasted little time picking up the cause and guided police to the woman’s home, where officers found the baby safe three hours later. Police also arrested a woman in her early 20s in connection with the kidnapping.

“Every click, every share made the difference,” Melissa McMahon, the infant’s mother, wrote Tuesday in a post on her Facebook page.

“Four marvellous people, whom we had the chance to meet, identified this woman thanks to Facebook … We felt a huge amount of support from the public. This victory is for you, too!!!”

The online detectives who helped find baby Victoria were identified as Charlene Plante, Marc-Andre Cote, Sharelle Bergeron and Melizanne Bergeron.

Melizanne Bergeron told reporters Tuesday in Trois-Rivières that she came across the information about the kidnapping on Facebook and showed the photo of the suspect to her friend Plante, who realized the woman was her neighbour.

She said they spotted the vehicle described in the alert parked outside the building, saw signs that someone was inside and called police. Officers, she added, arrived on the scene quickly and broke down the woman’s door.

“Thirty seconds after, the baby was in the hands of the police,” said Melizanne Bergeron, who touched Victoria as the officer cradling her walked past. “It was the best moment in my life. We were crying.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“I don’t realize it (yet), I’m just a person like (anybody else) and I saved a life.”

Charlene Plante, one of the four online sleuths who helped find baby Victoria

Melissa McMahon and Simon Boisclair hold their daughter Victoria in this photo posted on Boisclair’s Facebook page. McMahon used Facebook to thank everyone who helped bring home her baby, who was snatched from a Quebec hospital, especially the people who used social media to track down the alleged kidnapper. FACEBOOK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twister tears through N.D. oilfield workers’ camp

A man walks past trailers on Tuesday in Watford City, N.D., that were destroyed by a tornado. Authorities say several people were injured and over a dozen trailers were damaged or destroyed Monday evening when the twister tore through a camp where oilfield workers stay. JOSH WOOD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Hypersexualization’

Ministers unveil effort to educate girls about harm of sexual images

A public education campaign on cybersafety for girls that began four years ago in Atlantic Canada has added a section to educate girls about images depicting women as sexual objects.

The Atlantic ministers responsible for the status of women met in Charlottetown Tuesday to announce a new addition to a website set up to promote online safety for girls, which now includes information about the effects that the depiction of women and girls as sexual objects can have on self-esteem, self-confidence and self-image.

Valerie Docherty, the minister responsible for the status of women in Prince Edward Island, says “hypersexualization” can be an uncomfortable topic but it’s important to have the conversation.

Docherty was joined by her Atlantic colleagues, Marie-Claude Blais from New Brunswick, Joan Shea from Newfoundland and Labrador and Joanne Bernard from Nova Scotia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Nations chiefs gather to discuss fate of education bill

The first sign that common ground on controversial changes to First Nations education would be hard to find came early Tuesday when chiefs at a special meeting couldn’t even agree on an agenda for the day.

The aboriginal community is so split over the Harper government’s education bill that something seemingly as innocuous as the schedule became a sticking point.

The chiefs eventually opted to discuss First Nations education before deciding how to choose a new leader to replace Shawn Atleo, who quit this month as national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

But the brief impasse spoke to the significant obstacle facing both the assembly and the governing Conservatives: getting hundreds of aboriginal communities in Canada to agree on an issue as deeply personal as how their children are educated.

Quebec and Labrador Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, who has been the assembly’s spokesman since Atleo resigned, urged the aboriginal leaders gathered at an Ottawa hotel to take a unified stance, one way or another.

“The facts are that we have a bill before the House, which has been shelved by the minister … so that’s where I feel we need to find a way to come together,” Picard said.

Bill Erasmus, the Dene National Chief and AFN’s regional chief for the Northwest Territories, said it’s not fair to ask the country’s hundreds of First Nations to all agree on such a major issue.

“It’s the dilemma that Canada has to understand,” he said.

“First of all, if you asked all of the mayors in Canada to come to consensus, would you expect them to? That’s what we need to ask: Why wouldn’t you expect them, but you expect us to?” THE CANADIAN PRESS

Matthew Louie of Cowichan Tribes, B.C., votes as First Nations leaders, elders, youth and delegates gather for the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retired cop opens Winnipeg's first marijuana café

'Peaceful place.'
Vapes on Main offers space for medicinal pot users to medicate

SHANE GIBSON
Metro in Winnipeg

A former Winnipeg police officer who's advocated the legalization of drugs since hanging up the badge has opened that city's first marijuana café.

Bill Vandergraaf told Metro he wants to give medicinal marijuana users like himself a "peaceful place" to meet, smoke and exchange ideas.

"It has great medicinal value for all kinds of ailments, and it's time to stop criminalizing people," explained the 29-year veteran of the Winnipeg Police Service, who opened Vapes on Main two weeks ago.

Bill Vandergraaf.
SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

"It's time to make our streets safer by ending prohibition of marijuana."

Vandergraaf retired from policing in 2001 and said he's been using medical marijuana since 2007 to combat the depression, anxiety and alcoholism he picked up during the job.

Vapes on Main does not allow other drugs or alcohol on site, nor does it sell marijuana or drug paraphernalia.

Only those over 18 with a prescription are allowed to smoke inside, but the doors are also open for anyone looking for information about medical marijuana or those who want to debate the war on drugs with a man who's been on both sides.

"We would like to educate people as well," said Vandergraaf, who is not worried about getting shut down by his former employer. "Police are welcome to come in too."

Young achievers humble U.S. president

U.S. President Barack Obama checks out projects by young inventors displayed at the 2014 White House Science Fair in Washington on Tuesday. Peyton Robertson, a 12-year-old from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., wowed Obama with two inventions: "sandless" flood retention sandbags and retractable bicycle wheels. Obama, a Harvard-trained lawyer, confessed to feeling like "such an underachiever" as he celebrated student winners of a broad range of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions from across the country. They included Eric Chen, a high school senior who identified new drug candidates for the treatment of influenza, the creator of a catapult-armed mannequin who shot three-point baskets, an 18-year-old cancer researcher and the second-grade Girl Scouts who designed a Lego "flood-proof" bridge. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Top brass says sexual harassment not a part of military culture

Commons defence committee. Commander grilled after damning magazine story says assault at epidemic level

The country's top military commander has been called on the parliamentary carpet to answer questions about reports of sexual violence in the military.

Gen. Tom Lawson, the chief of defence staff, was grilled Tuesday by the Commons defence committee about a recent magazine report that claimed sex assaults within the ranks are at an epidemic level.

The story, published by Maclean's and L'actualité magazines, interviewed several victims and examined a decade's worth of statistics documenting reported attacks.

Lawson told the committee he found the allegations disturbing, and acknowledged the courage of those victims who spoke out.

An internal review carried out since the claims were first reported last month has identified "some barriers" that prevent alleged victims from coming forward, he testified.

Lawson said an independent review from outside the military is being organized, one that will have the authority to interview military members and could potentially uncover fresh allegations of assault.

The exposé

The magazine story said military police get as many as 200 complaints of sexual assault each year, with many more cases going unreported by victims who fear the potential consequences from within the military hierarchy.

But he said he does not accept the notion that sexual violence and harassment are part of military culture, citing a recent internal survey that suggested harassment of all kinds has been declining steadily over the last decade.

Lawson said only a small percentage of those who took part in the 2012 survey said they've faced harassment, but he conceded the numbers are higher when the results are parsed by gender.

"I think there is an underreporting going on," Lawson said, "and we need to do everything we can to deal with any issues that stand in the way of someone coming forward."

But defence critic Jack Harris didn't buy those assurances, saying that the issue has resurfaced time and again since a similar media exposé was written in the late 1990s.

"As a Canadian I'm more than concerned and disturbed," said Harris. National Defence is three years behind in reporting criminal statistics within the military to Parliament, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'They are just dancing.' Iranians should be free to be Happy, Pharrell says

Pharrell Williams says everyone should be able to celebrate their joy — including Iranian youths who were arrested for posting an Internet video of them dancing to his song Happy.

Some in Iran see the video as promoting the spread of Western culture. Iranian laws ban women from dancing in public or appearing outside with heads uncovered.

Williams says he has "the utmost respect for people's religious views" and doesn't know much about Iranian law.

But he added: "The present is a gift, and if you just want to celebrate your happiness, you should be allowed to do that."

Speaking at an exhibit opening in Paris Monday, he said, "They are just dancing."

Pharrell Williams poses during a press conference for the exhibition GIRL at the Perrotin Gallery in Paris, Monday. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fans have posted similar Happy videos from around the world, showing people dancing down streets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

90% drop in cases

B.C. hospital no longer needs AIDS ward

A Vancouver hospital ward once so stigmatized it was only referred to by code name is shedding its past thanks to a steady reduction of AIDS cases.

B.C. Premier Christy Clark has announced "Ward 10C" at St. Paul's Hospital will no longer be dedicated to the disease because it's not needed. She says the ward is being repurposed from a place where patients went expecting to die to a treatment centre for a chronic, manageable, long-term illness.

Clark credits the success to a made-in-B.C. treatment and prevention program and the pioneering work of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. There has been a 90 per cent drop in AIDS cases in B.C. since 1995. THE CANADIAN PRESS

People carry sandbags to set up a shooting position as a pro-Russia gunman watches on the road leading from the airport to Donetsk, Ukraine, Tuesday. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donetsk mayor says at least 40 killed in fighting

The eastern city of Donetsk was in turmoil Tuesday a day after government forces used fighter jets to stop pro-Russia separatists from taking over the airport. Dozens were reported killed and the mayor went on television to urge residents to stay indoors.

The city of one million was engulfed by fighting Monday when rebels moved to seize the airport, Ukraine's second-largest. They were repelled by government forces using combat jets and helicopter gunships. Associated Press journalists witnessed intensive gunfire throughout the day and into the night. Plumes of black smoke rose into the air and officials shut down Donetsk airport and nearby streets to traffic amid the fighting.

Donetsk mayor Oleksandr Lukyanchenko said 40 people, including two civilians, were killed in Monday's fighting. Rebel leaders, meanwhile, said the deaths could reach up to 100.

The battles came as billionaire candy magnate Petro Poroshenko claimed victory in Sunday's presidential vote, which authorities in Kyiv had hoped would unify the deeply divided nation. Poroshenko, who has yet to be sworn in, has vowed to negotiate a peaceful end to the insurgency in the east, but also has called the separatists "Somali pirates" and promised he would stop them from sowing more chaos.

The bodies of about 30 insurgents were brought Tuesday to a hospital morgue in Donetsk, said Leonid Baranov of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic, who was at the Kalinin morgue. The fighters had been wounded and were being transported to a hospital in a truck when it was shot up by government forces, Baranov said.

Baranov said up to 100 rebels were probably killed in Monday's fighting, adding that many bodies had not been recovered because they were in areas under government control.

"As they (Ukrainian forces) are controlling the airport and the fight was there ... we cannot right now identify exactly how many victims we have," he said, adding that hundreds were also wounded in the fighting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Poachers tracked. Ranger fatally shot in Zambia wildlife preserve

A suspected poacher fatally shot the head of law enforcement at a wildlife park in Zambia after he set out to investigate reports of gunshots in the reserve, said a group that runs African wildlife parks.

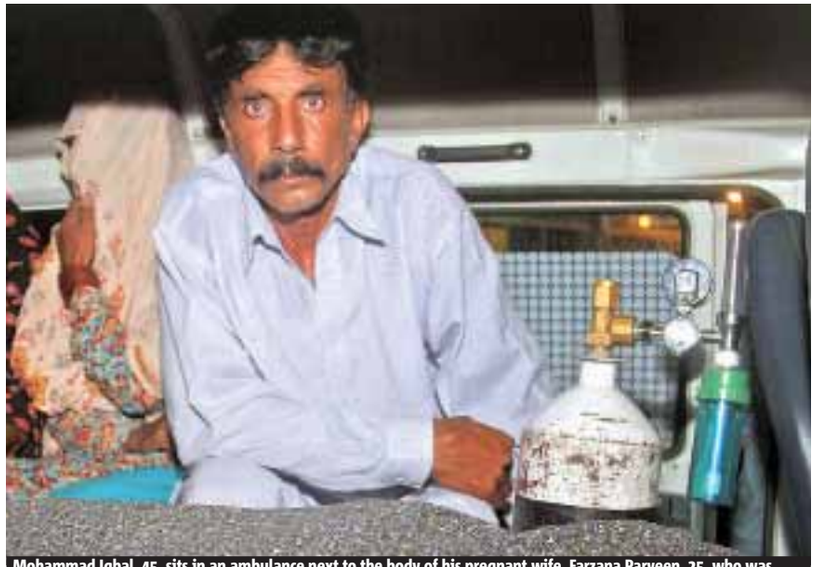
Dexter Chilunda is believed to have come across two poachers during his patrol in Liuwa Plain National Park and he was shot in the chest at close range with a shotgun, the non-profit African Parks group said Monday.

Police and park rangers followed tracks leading from the site of the shooting on Friday and were pursuing leads they hoped would bring them to the culprits, said African Parks.

Anthony Hall-Martin, the co-founder of Johannesburg-based African Parks, died May 21 of cancer at the age of 68.

Hall-Martin had helped establish and expand reserves while working for South Africa's national parks service, and later negotiated with dozens of African governments to protect wildlife areas, according to African Parks.

The group said Hall-Martin led the transformation of Malawi's Majete wildlife reserve, which had been depleted by poachers, into an area stocked with more than 2,500 animals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mohammad Iqbal, 45, sits in an ambulance next to the body of his pregnant wife, Farzana Parveen, 25, who was stoned to death by her own family in Lahore, Pakistan, on Tuesday. K.M. CHAUDARY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pregnant woman stoned to death

'Honour killing.' 20 members of woman's family attack couple outside court in Lahore

A pregnant woman was stoned to death by her own family in front of a Pakistani high court on Tuesday for marrying the man she loved.

Nearly 20 members of the woman's family, including her father and brothers, attacked her and her husband with batons and bricks in broad daylight before a crowd of onlookers outside the high court of Lahore, police investigator Rana Mujahid said.

Hundreds of women are murdered every year in Muslim-majority Pakistan in so-called "honour killings" carried out by husbands or relatives as a punishment for alleged adultery or other illicit sexual behaviour, but public stoning is extremely rare.

Quoted

"We were in love."

Mohammad Iqbal, husband of Farzana Parveen

Mujahid said the woman's father has been arrested for murder and that police were working to apprehend all those who participated in the "heinous crime."

Another officer identified the slain woman as Farzana Parveen, 25, and said she had married Mohammad Iqbal against her family's wishes.

Her father, Mohammad Azeem, had filed an abduction case against Iqbal, which the couple was contesting, her lawyer Mustafa Kharal said. He confirmed that she was three months pregnant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

European Union. Protest votes show changes are needed, leaders agree

Despite their clashing visions for Europe, Britain and France agreed Tuesday that the massive increase in protest votes during the European Union election is a watershed moment that must lead to profound change in how Europe governs itself.

Coming into an EU summit meeting, British Prime Minister David Cameron said the anti-EU vote had shown that Brussels had become "too big, too bossy, too interfering," and needed to return many powers to its 28 member nations.

The EU leaders met to assess the rise of the far-right, Euroskeptic and anti-establishment parties that took almost 30 per cent of the seats in the European Parliament in national elections that ended Sunday. The summit had the major challenge of figuring out how to deal with the grassroots revolt of people turning away from the parties that built the EU.

French President Francois Hollande said that change was needed but added it should not spawn "policies against Europe, but to have policies for people who can see themselves within Europe."

Nevertheless, even France, a founding member and a driving force of the EU, realized that the partly hostile and often apathetic electorate across the continent would be forcing through fundamental changes.

"I am European and I want Europe to change," Hollande said.

One of the first battles was already shaping up — over Jean-Claude Juncker, the former prime minister of Luxembourg and longtime leader of the group of nations with the euro currency, who wants to replace Jose Manuel Barroso as leader of the EU Commission.

Juncker, 59, is seen as a committed defender of EU unity and closer co-operation, which is anathema to the Brits. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama's plan. 9,800 troops to remain after war ends in Afghanistan

President Barack Obama will seek to keep 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after the war formally ends later this year and then will withdraw most of those forces by 2016, senior administration officials said Tuesday.

Obama's decision is largely in line with what military commanders have been seeking and will allow the president to fully end the American-led military effort by the time he leaves office.

The two-year plan is contingent on the Afghan government signing a bilateral security agreement with the U.S. While current Afghan President Hamid Karzai has declined to sign the agreement, U.S. officials are confident that either of the candidates seeking to replace him would approve it.

The plan calls for the U.S. military to draw down from its current force of 32,000 to 9,800 by the start of next year. Those troops would be dispatched throughout Afghanistan and focus on counterterrorism missions and training Afghan security forces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bosnia

Flood reveals human remains

Last week's record flooding in Bosnia has uncovered human remains experts believe belong to people who went missing during the country's 1992-95 war.

Lejla Cengic of Bosnia's Institute for Missing Persons said Tuesday that teams fixing power lines discovered the remains near the northern town of Doboj. Nearly 30,000 people went missing during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. One third of them have been found in mass graves, mostly in Bosnia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York City

Cops to carry heroin antidote

Thousands of New York City police officers will soon be carrying emergency antidotes to help deal with the recent spike in heroin overdoses.

The state is providing the New York Police Department with $1.17 million US from civil and criminal forfeiture cases to pay for 19,500 kits intended to equip patrol officers. Kits contain two syringes and two inhalers of naloxone and instructions. They cost about $60 US each with a two-year shelf life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A rite of spring to bring business prosperity

Shinto priests in ritual clothing perform a ceremonial rite for an annual festival at the Hanazono Shinto Shrine in Tokyo on Saturday. The shrine is famous for business fortune and good health.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dream of owning a home? Keep dreaming

RBC study. Home ownership is seeming more like fantasy as reality of high prices and interest rates hits home

It's becoming increasingly difficult for families to own a home in Canada and affordability is only expected to get worse going forward, according to the Royal Bank of Canada.

With house prices continuing to rise, RBC said its affordability index deteriorated in the first quarter of this year — the third quarter that has happened out of the last four — with the deterioration particularly acute in the hot markets of Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.

And RBC chief economist Craig Wright says keeping up with the cost of home ownership in the future is likely going to be an even bigger stretch for households.

"If prices continue to accelerate in key Canadian markets in the near term, affordability could come under pressure," the report points out.

"The eventual normalization of monetary policy will lead to substantial increases in interest rates over the medium term, which could be too much for other affordability determinants to counteract," it adds.

Home! Sweet (pricey) home!

Nationally, the index rose by 0.1 points to 43.2 per cent for detached bungalows and 0.3 points to 49.0 per cent for two-storey homes, while the measure for condos dipped 0.1 points to 27.9 per cent.

The affordability index measures the percentage of pre-tax household income that is needed to service the cost of owning a home at current market prices, including payments for a mortgage, utilities and property taxes. A reading of 50 per cent means service costs swallow up half of a household's pre-tax income.

Meanwhile, RBC said the erosion in affordability does not pose any immediate threat to the health of the Canadian housing market and that the Bank of Canada is not expected to begin nudging interest rates higher until the middle of 2015. Many economists don't expect the bank to act until 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big Bucks? New, from the latte people: Burgers!

Starbucks is dipping its toe into the burger business, with plans to open an outpost of its La Boulange chain that caters to the dinner crowd.

A spokeswoman for Starbucks, Linda Mills, said the Los Angeles restaurant is scheduled to open June 11 and will be open until 10 p.m.

It will also serve beer, wine, cocktails and milkshakes.

Starbucks Corp. had purchased the La Boulange chain of bakery-cafés in 2012.

The cafés are based in the San Francisco Bay Area and primarily focus on breakfast and lunch with soups, salads and sandwiches, along with baked goods.

Those cafés typically close before 7 p.m.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada

Big banks agree to expand low and no-cost services

The country's eight largest banks have agreed to expand low-cost and no-cost banking services for Canadians, Finance Minister Joe Oliver announced Tuesday.

The move follows broad measures introduced in the February budget on cheap access to banking services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Study

Fighting blight in Detroit would cost $850 million

Removing blighted residential properties, lots and vacant commercial structures that have plagued Detroit neighbourhoods for decades would cost $850 million US, a task force said Tuesday.

The study is part of efforts announced last year by the administration of President Barack Obama to help Detroit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Executive pay

Here are the three highest-paid CEOs of 2013, as calculated by The Associated Press and Equilar, an executive pay research firm:

1. **Anthony Petrello,** Nabors Industries, $68.2 million US, up 246 per cent
2. **Leslie Moonves,** CBS, $65.6 million, up 9 per cent
3. **Richard Adkerson,** Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, $55.3 million, up 294 per cent

Market Minute

DOLLAR 92.07¢ (-0.01¢)

TSX 14,658.02 (-57.67)

OIL $104.11 US (-$0.24)

GOLD $1,265.50 US (-$26.20)

Natural gas: $4.50 US (+$0.10)
Dow Jones: 16,675.50 (+69.23)

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Beefing up Keystone safety rules

Large sections of pipe are shown in Sumner, Texas. After learning of defects (now fixed) safety regulators have added two new conditions on construction of TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL oil pipeline. TONY GUTIERREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Safety regulators have quietly placed two extra conditions on construction of TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL oil pipeline after learning of potentially dangerous construction defects involving the southern leg of the Canada-to-Texas project.

The defects — high rates of bad welds, dented pipe and damaged pipeline coating — have been fixed. But the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration wants to make sure similar problems don't occur during construction of the pipeline's controversial northern segment, which is on hold pending a decision by the Obama administration.

One condition requires TransCanada to hire a third-party contractor chosen by the pipeline safety agency to monitor the construction and make reports to the U.S. government on whether the work is sound.

The second requires TransCanada to adopt a quality management program to ensure "this pipeline is — from the beginning — built to the highest standards by both Keystone personnel and its many contractors."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORKPLACE GIVERS GET ALL THE LOVE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Never mind butcher, baker or candlestick maker.

The people who float your workplace boat these days are takers, matchers and givers, according to a rising star in workaday psychology, Adam Grant, the youngest full professor at the Wharton School.

This guy is only 32, but he's already figured out how to navigate the concrete jungle and has written a New York Times bestseller about it, called, naturally, Give and Take. He's also the subject of a recent article in Slate.

Even though Grant has the fast-track record we usually associate with a taker — those Gordon-Gecko-greed-is-good types so familiar in the mythology of corporate America — he tries to be a giver, not just because his research shows that nice guys (and girls) can finish first.

Givers are defined by the fact that they will take care of other people with no expectation of reward. They do it precisely because they are selfless. So you can't game the give.

Most of us are matchers in the middle — I'll scratch your back with the understanding that you, at some point very soon, will scratch mine. Other people respect the matcher ethos, but no one actually loves a matcher, unless it's the matcher's mother, who is, by nature, a giver.

All the love is reserved for givers. Givers sow the seeds of harmony wherever they go. People want to work with them because they trust them ... and know they'll share the glory and take the blame.

Do you know anybody like that? If you do, you probably follow them around with big puppy eyes.

Takers are toxic. Grant says it's a good idea to keep a wooden stake, silver bullet and string of garlic handy to ward them off. Well, he doesn't put it in precisely those terms, but he does say that the negative impact of a taker can be three times that of the positive impact of a giver.

They suck the lifeblood out of an organization.

There is an easy way to spot a taker and it's not only because he or she doesn't drink ... wine. "The main sign that someone's a taker is kissing up and kicking down," he writes.

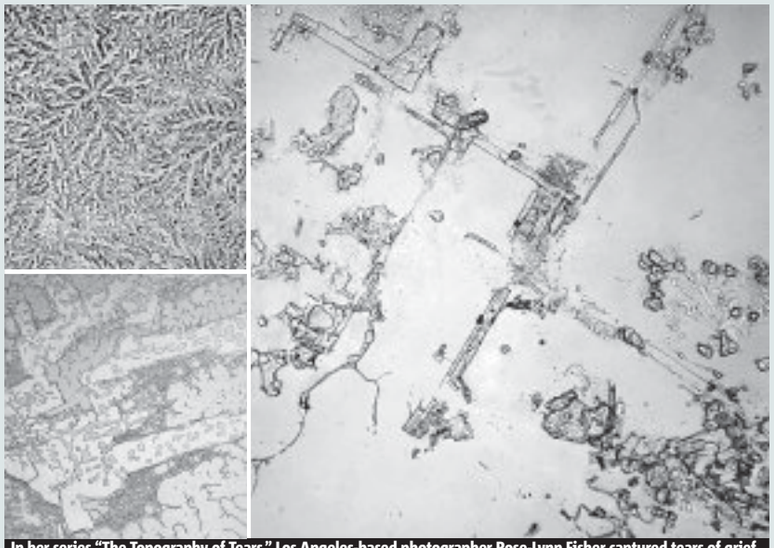
Just because you're a giver doesn't mean you put a Kick Me sign on your back before you go to work in the morning. Winning givers don't allow themselves to be kicked or stepped on; they don't overdo the giving to the detriment of their own work, and they give on a smartly scheduled basis as opposed to on impulse or whim.

Whatever you think (stop rolling your eyes), I think it's good to have permission to be a nice person. It's ironic to discover that while we've spent our lives learning to eat other dogs, happiness is a warm puppy.

And if you're a little bit good at being good, the rewards will come in your lifetime. Good dog!

ZOOM

Art that's worth crying over



In her series "The Topography of Tears," Los Angeles-based photographer Rose-Lynn Fisher captured tears of grief, pictured right, tears of remembrance, bottom left, and tears from an onion, top left. COURTESY ROSE-LYNN FISHER

Q&A

'Aerial view of my emotions'

ROSE-LYNN FISHER
Artist-photographer based in Los Angeles

What inspired you to turn human tears into art?

One day I was crying but stopped and wondered if my tears of grief would look any different from tears of happiness. When I magnified them on a microscope, what I saw evoked a sense of place, like an aerial view of my emotional terrain. I was so intrigued by this that I started a project, which now comprises 100 of my own and others' tears.

How did you go about photographing the tears?

I collect a tear, put it onto a glass slide and view it through a standard microscope, magnified 10 to 40 times. After the tear sample has been either air-dried or covered, I photograph it using a digital microscopy camera.

They do look like strange landscapes.

Exactly. I marvel at the visual similarities between the microscopic world and the macro world of landscapes. Patterns of erosion etched into the earth over millions of years can look like the branched crystalline patterns of an evaporated tear that formed in less than a minute.

Q&A BY ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

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Worth mentioning. USDA projects to help protect soil, water quality

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is teaming with businesses, non-profits and others on a five-year, $2.4-billion program that will fund locally designed soil and water conservation projects nationwide, Secretary Tom Vilsack said Tuesday.

Authorized by the new farm law enacted earlier this year, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is intended to involve the private sector more directly in planning and funding environmental protection initiatives tied to agriculture.

He described the projects to be funded as "clean water startup operations" that will benefit communities and watersheds, a departure from the department's more traditional approach of focusing on individual operators adopting practices such as no-till cultivation or planting buffer strips to prevent runoff into streams.

Quoted

"It's a new approach to conservation that is really going to encourage people to think in very innovative and creative ways."

Secretary Tom Vilsack

Universities, local and tribal governments, companies and sporting groups are among those eligible to devise plans and seek grants.

"By establishing new public-private partnerships, we can have an impact that's well beyond what the federal government could accomplish on its own," Vilsack said. "These efforts keep our land resilient and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism and outdoor recreation and other industries."

In addition to protecting the environment, the projects will bolster the rural economy by supporting tourism and outdoor recreation jobs while avoiding pollution that would cost more to clean up, he said.

The USDA will spend $1.2 billion — including $400 million the first year — and raise an equal amount from participants. Successful applications will include offers of cash, labour or other contributions, as well as plans for achieving measurable solutions and using new approaches, said Jason Weller, chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro
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Disney has its wicked ways

Bold child's play

Angelina Jolie all in as villain

Angelina Jolie taking on the title role in Maleficent, telling the story of Sleeping Beauty from the villain's perspective, might have seemed like a no-brainer, but Jolie herself had her doubts. "I was a bit nervous to take her on. I don't have a big theatre voice. I don't do things that are kind of comedic. This is such a crazy idea. I'm a fairy? 'How was your day, honey?' 'I was a fairy,'" Jolie remembers telling husband Brad Pitt. "I was so challenged by it. For me as an actress to do something where I'm not taking myself so seriously or doing it for myself or doing it for art — just to remember what it is to play and entertain and try something bold."

But once she had the horns and the headdress and the augmented cheekbones and nose in place, she just went with it. "There's no halfway. If you're going to do it, you can't just kind of do it. You have to go fully into it and enjoy it," she says. "The original was done so well and her voice was so great. The way she was animated was so perfect. If anything, I was worried I'd fail the original. I practised a lot with my children. When I got them laughing, I figured I was on to something — well, they laughed, they cried."

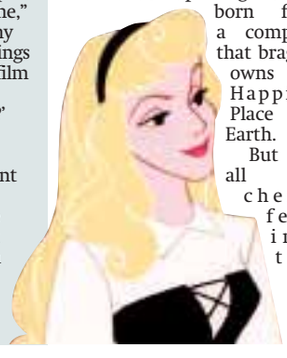
Speaking of making kids laugh and cry, Jolie isn't concerned some parents might find the darker elements of Maleficent a bit tough for kids to take. "I think what children can handle and what they're interested in is much deeper than what people assume," she says. "I think it's why sometimes we make things too simple for them. A film like this, people ask, 'Is it too dark for children?' It's not. They want to understand things that frighten them. They want to see dark things that happen and how to rise above them. They don't want to be hidden from all things, everything sweetened." **NED EHRBAR/ MWN IN HOLLYWOOD**

Angelina Jolie as Maleficent with her daughter Vivienne, portraying Young Aurora, in a scene from Maleficent. FRANK CONNOR/DISNEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's not all Mouse ears. Disney horns in on the dark side of fairy tales from the winged demon of Fantasia to Maleficent

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Hear the name Disney, and your first thoughts are likely about Mickey Mouse ears, Mary Poppins or the song Let it Go. Uplifting notions born from a company that brags it owns the Happiest Place on Earth.



But for all the cheery feelings the Mouse House has given us over the years, Disney villains have also inspired a nightmare or two.

This weekend, Maleficent creeps into theatres. Starring Angelina Jolie, it is the story of how the Sleeping Beauty villainess became evil after being betrayed by a child. With plumped up cheekbones and headgear with demonic horns, Jolie looks like something from a hellish Hieronymus Bosch painting.

"She isn't the pretty princess," says the actress. "She isn't a beautiful queen. She's a very awkward, pointy, slightly scary-looking horned creature who goes through a lot in her life."

Maleficent joins a long list of dastardly Disney villains to inspire sleepless nights.

Scar

In The Lion King, Scar (voice of Jeremy Irons) is the brother of the king, Mufasa (James Earl Jones). In a Shakespearean twist, Scar murders his brother and banishes his nephew to gain control of Pride Rock.

Most evil line? "Long live the King." — Scar to Mufasa before killing him.

Cruella De Vil

In the 1961 animated film and the 1996 live-action film, 101 Dalmatians, Cruella De Vil (voice of Betty Lou Gerson in the cartoon, Glenn Close in the flesh) is a diabolical fashionista who wants to incorporate puppy pelts into her wardrobe.

Most evil line? "Darling, I live for fur. I worship fur!"

Queen Grimhilde

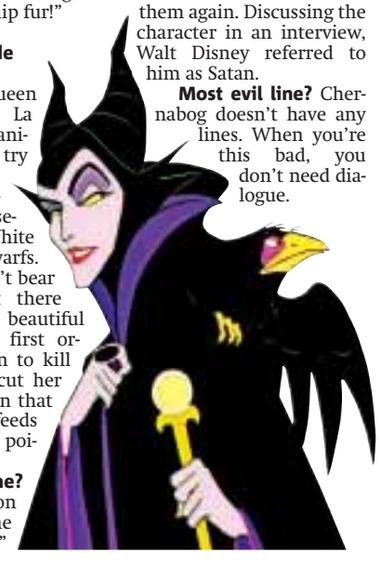
Vanity pushes Queen Grimhilde (Lucille La Verne in the 1937 animated version) to try and destroy the life of her stepdaughter (Adriana Caselotti) in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The evil queen can't bear the thought that there is someone more beautiful than she, so she first orders her huntsman to kill Snow White and cut her heart out and when that doesn't work, she feeds the pretty girl a poisoned apple.

Most evil line? "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"

Chernabog

Hands down, the scariest vision in any Disney film has to be Chernabog, the winged demon who briefly appears in the Night on Bald Mountain sequence of Fantasia. He is the essence of evil and according to Villians Wiki, his hobby is bringing the dead back to life so he can kill them again. Discussing the character in an interview, Walt Disney referred to him as Satan.

Most evil line? Chernabog doesn't have any lines. When you're this bad, you don't need dialogue.



METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Macaulay Culkin ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Macaulay's 'pizza band' too cheesy for British audience

It was a Blues Brothers moment for actor Macaulay Culkin and his band Pizza Underground on Sunday at the Dot to Dot Festival in Nottingham, England, when fans turned on the comedy cover group by booing them and even throwing beer onstage.

Unfortunately, Mac couldn't turn it around with a pizza-themed version of Rawhide to get the crowd going; the Home Alone star and the rest of Pizza Underground allegedly walked off stage smelling like booze after only three songs — but not before they performed a cover of Lou Reed's Perfect Day, calling it Pizza Day.

Culkin's band covers Velvet Underground and Lou Reed songs but changes the lyrics around to be about pizza.

Daniel Radcliffe's battles with alcohol caused by motor disorder

According to a new tell-all book, Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe's early battles with alcohol came about because of a debilitating motor disorder, author Randy Jernigan tells Radar Online. "He would go into episodes where he couldn't do anything, even tie his shoes. Daniel felt it held him back in a lot of ways. He didn't feel like a normal kid. He felt lost."

Radcliffe reportedly turned to alcohol to deal with the condition, and things came to a head when he moved into his own place at 17. "He became totally dependent on alcohol," Jernigan says. "He tried to hide his issues behind the drink."

Daniel Radcliffe

While Radcliffe famously sobered up, he apparently had a relapse while preparing for his first go at the play the Cripple of Inishmaan in London in 2012. "The show took a lot out of him," the author says. "He relapsed because he went back to his old ways of thinking. He felt like he wasn't good enough."

But the star has been clean and sober since the relapse, even as the show has moved to Broadway. Instead of drinking, Radcliffe is now apparently addicted to books. "He has a passion for reading. He reads one book after another," Jernigan explains.

The Word

Manhattan's got a friend in David Schwimmer

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York City

David Schwimmer is one of the Friends I'd vaguely lost track of since the series came to an end. Is he the one playing an aging sitcom star on cable? No, that's Lisa Kudrow. Is he the one who's totally over Brad Pitt? That's Jennifer Aniston. Oh, now I remember. David Schwimmer is the one who battles crime.

Well, he fought for justice this week at least. Police were investigating an altercation between a suspected male prostitute, his john, and a third man that broke out at 5:40 a.m. on East Sixth Street in Manhattan's East Village, where the sitcom star owns a brownstone.

The 26-year-old john was taken to Bellevue Hospital with stab wounds on his face, while the 21-year-old alleged prostitute was treated for slashes on his arm. Police had only one man's word against the other's until they realized that security cameras outside Schwimmer's home had caught footage of the altercation, according to the New York Post. Schwimmer gave the NYPD the tape, which might be used in court.

Schwimmer bought his brownstone for $4 million US in 2012, and he's been heavily renovating it ever since, to the consternation of his neighbours. However, this incident might convince the other Sixth Street residents that good Friends make good neighbours after all.

Harry Styles

Kendall just can't get over Harry Styles

Well, this is awkward. While Harry Styles and Kendall Jenner's brief romance has been over for months, Jenner reportedly "just can't get him out of her head" and hasn't stopped calling the One Direction star "despite their romance fizzing out months ago," according to Star magazine.

"Now Kendall desperately wants him back. She loved the attention dating Harry gave her, plus she really fell for him big time," a source says. "Kendall really opened up to him and he did nothing but use her. That hasn't stopped her from dreaming of a rematch, and after a night out with the girls she'll come home and start calling him. Harry rarely takes her calls because he knows when he's pushed his luck when it comes to a woman's heart and Kendall's got it bad for him. He doesn't want to encourage her, but it's turning into an embarrassing situation — for both of them."

Rachel Bilson shows off her baby bump

Rachel Bilson isn't hiding the fact that she and longtime boyfriend Hayden Christensen are expecting. The couple headed to Barbados for a quick vacation, with Bilson showing off her growing baby bump in a black bikini, according to Us Weekly. "They've talked about this for a while and are so excited," a source tells the magazine. "Everyone is beyond thrilled for them."

Rachel Bilson

Twitter

@justinbieber
Can't sleep too much turbulence. :(

@rickygervais
I am going to sleep now before @WilliamShatner or @joshgroban say something else weird.

@MarkDuplass
I'm about to sit down with wine, pizza, The Bachelorette, and my best friends. I think I'm peaking too early.

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app for more images from Yellowstone National Park (Flickr: yellowstonenps)

Where the buffalo roam

Yellowstone. This massive, famed park stretches across three states — you need a plan to see it all

You can't miss the bison herds in Yellowstone. ISTOCK

Old Faithful likely comes to mind when you think of Yellowstone National Park. And it's certainly worth seeing, along with other geysers. But the geysers are just the start of what Yellowstone offers: hiking, biking, camping, fishing, wildlife-spotting and more. Yellowstone National Park covers 8,992 square kilometres over three states — Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

With stops along the way, it can take two full days to drive the 230-kilometre Grand Loop. Here are some Yellowstone basics, starting with the geysers.

Geysers

Most of the park's easily accessible and most famous geysers are concentrated along a 50-kilometre drive in the middle of the park, from West Thumb, Wyo. to Madison Junction, Wyo. and can be seen in a half-day.

Park visitor centres can provide predicted eruption times for about a half-dozen geysers. Some predictions are in windows of several hours, so you'll likely spend some time waiting. Old Faithful erupts every 60 to 90 minutes. The exact timing depends on the previous eruption, so the park can predict only one eruption at a time.

Several other geysers are within walking distance, including the tiny Anemone erupting every 10 minutes or so. A few more clusters of geysers and hot springs are a short drive north along Grand Loop.

If your timing is right, don't miss the Grand Geyser, the tallest predictable geyser in the world, reaching as high as 60 metres and lasting up to 12 minutes. You might have to wait a few hours, though. The Grand Geyser has been erupting every seven or eight hours.

Hikes

The Divide hike is about 5.6 kilometres round trip and takes you to the Continental Divide, the line where water flows toward the Atlantic from one side and toward the Pacific from the other. There's no sign or any other marker at the top, so you'll have to use your imagination. The park rates the hike as moderately strenuous, given the climb of about 225 metres. Mystic Falls is more scenic. The start of the trail is close to the Biscuit Basin cluster of geysers, so you can get geysers and a hike both out of the way with one stop.

Give yourself at least two hours for the drive from the geysers to Mount Washburn. The trail to the top is well-maintained, but the hike isn't for those out of shape: You'll climb some 427 metres to an elevation of 3,122 metres. There are two ways up: The longer route, from Dunraven Pass, is about five kilometres each way, but it's less steep than the Chittenden Road option. Take the same route down; the parking lots for each trailhead are 10 kilometres apart.

In the distance, you can glimpse Yellowstone's version of Grand Canyon, a gorge formed by the Yellowstone River. There's a fire lookout tower with an observation deck at the top.

Grand Canyon

Yellowstone's Grand Canyon is worth its own visit. You have several long or short hikes to choose from, along either side of the canyon. If you're pressed for time, drive to the Upper and Lower Falls and view the rapids before a pair of drops into the canyon. For both falls, use paved overlooks or take short hikes for closer views. Visit the Upper Falls in the afternoon for a chance to see rainbows.

Wildlife and driving

Yellowstone is home to bison, moose, elk, bighorn sheep, wolves and grizzly bears. If you're looking to see a certain type of animal, ask at visitor centres where to go and the best time of day. Cars stopped or parked haphazardly along a road usually means there's something worth seeing. You can't miss the bison herds, but for other creatures, you may need binoculars.

Biking and Boating

You can bike along the Grand Loop on your own bike or by renting one near Old Faithful. There are boating and fishing opportunities as well; permits are required.

Getting there and lodging

The Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park.
JIM PEACO/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK (FLICKR: YELLOWSTONENPS)

The bulk of the park is in northwest Wyoming and has five entrances, with gateway towns offering food and lodging.

The drive from the entrances to the main loop is long, so plan your access point and lodging carefully. There are nine lodges inside the park; consider switching hotels each night to be closer to another part of the park the next morning.

The park has a dozen campgrounds. Seven are first come, first served. Reservations for the others and for the lodges fill up fast.

Nearest airports with car rentals are in Cody and Jackson, Wyoming; Bozeman, Billings and West Yellowstone, Montana; and Idaho Falls, Idaho. If you have time, it may be cheaper to fly to Denver and drive the 885 kilometres to the park via Cody. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bucket List

Biking down Italy's heel

The Puglia region has some of the most beautiful scenery in all of southern Italy and this summer might be the one you hop on a bike and explore this strip of coastal countryside. Plenty of exercise means you can eat everything in sight. Bike through valleys and vineyards, olive groves and seaside villages. Butterfield & Robinson have been biking this quadrant of Europe, among others, for years and have full-service itineraries to opt into or custom adventures as your needs and companions dictate — with adventure, culture and vistas you only see in postcards. The Puglia trip concludes at the UNESCO protected Trulli of Alberobello in the province of Bari. Visit ButterfieldRobinson.com. **DOUG WALLACE/METRO**

Hitting the road in eastern Europe

Cars and Krakow. The transit isn't always reliable, so why not take matters into your own hands and drive?

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Eastern Europe, with its occasionally inconvenient train schedules, is the perfect destination for a week-long road trip.

Arrive by air in Krakow, Poland

Home to the largest market square in Europe and the stunning Wawel Castle, Krakow is the perfect size to explore on foot. The proliferation of statues and portraits of recently canonized Pope John Paul II is a reminder of this town's pride for its most famous son. Oskar Schindler, the German war profiteer who redeemed himself by saving thousands of Jewish lives during the Second World War, is another famous former inhabitant. His factory is now a fascinating museum.

Drive to Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial & Museum, Poland

The extensive remains of this sinister camp are an hour and half from Krakow. I knew the experience wasn't going to be a happy one, but felt compelled to go. Instead of the usual sounds of group chit-chat and camera shutters snapping, the four-hour tour here was silent. After seeing rooms stacked with stolen personal items, including human hair, it is impossible not to feel sick to your stomach. Unfortunately, history can be cruel.

Drive to Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic

This stunning 17th-century town sits on a peninsula in the Vltava River, overlooked by an immense Renaissance castle. You could walk the entire town in two hours, but it's much more enjoyable to meander your way through the cobblestone streets. Take the audio tour of the castle, linger in the unique art shops and stop for a goblet or three of mead at the Two Marys medieval tavern.

Drive to Prague, Czech Republic

With only two days in Prague, it would be impossible to do justice to all of the big name sites; Prague Castle, Old Town Square, Wenceslas Square. Instead I followed my feet and wandered through the city's varied neighbourhoods. I did end up spending two hours on the Charles Street Bridge, transfixed by the interactions of buskers, artists and tourists underneath the baroque statues that line the parapets. I had an incredible Bohemian meal at the Blue Duckling, about a 10-minute walk from the bridge on the castle side. For the more budget conscious, I found fantastic pubs that brewed their own beer and happily served up a pint alongside a plate of goulash for less than 10 dollars.

The tour of Auschwitz is solemn and silent. LOREN CHRISTIE

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Grab a can of tuna and go green

Tuna and Bean Spinach Salad. Fish gives you protein, the beans offer up a dose of fibre, and spinach is packed with nutrients

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

Sometimes the comfort of salad fits the bill for a quick dinner — especially when you can make it in about 10 minutes!

Looking for a new salad for the summer weekends or weeknight meals? This one has fresh lemon flavour and crunch from the spinach. Pack the tuna mixture separately and then toss it when you need it if you are packing it for lunch or to take away to a friend's. That means you can get your family members the nutrients they need without any effort.

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

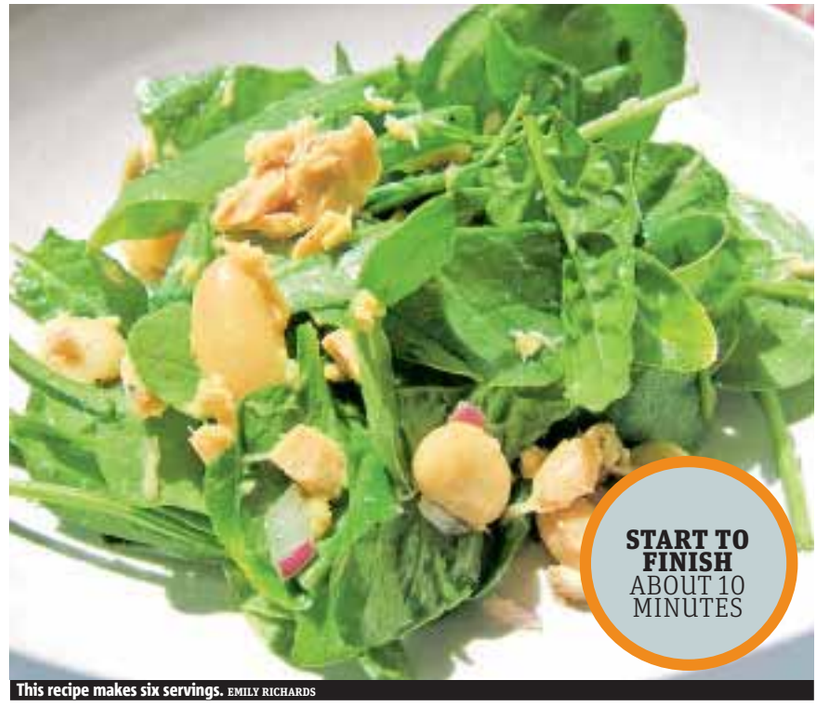
Ingredients

- 2 cans (6 oz/170 g) light tuna in water, drained
- 1 can (19 oz/540 ml) white kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) finely diced red onion
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) grated lemon rind
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) lemon juice
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) vegetable or chicken broth
- 2 tsp (10 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 8 cups (2 l) lightly packed baby spinach leaves

1. In a large bowl, stir together tuna, beans and red onion. Add lemon rind, juice, broth, oil and pepper; stir until well coated. Stir in spinach and toss until leaves are coated. Divide among 6 plates to serve.

Cooking tips

- This is a great combination for two people to prepare in the kitchen. Make work fun when you have company and speed up the process even more. Whether you are a couple or a family, preparing meals together is quality time during which you can share your day's events and wind down. As the saying goes, home is where the heart is, and luckily also where a kitchen awaits with the aromas and flavours of delicious food to be enjoyed with friends and family!



This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Colour your soup bowl

This recipe serves four to six people. EMILY RICHARDS

This Ginger Chicken and Orzo Soup soup is a perfect start to springtime. Colourful and easy to enjoy to start a meal or on its own with a crisp salad and a whole grain bun.

Ingredients

- 1 lb (454 g) boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced fresh ginger
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) canola oil
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 box (900 ml) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) whole wheat or regular orzo pasta
- 1 cup (250 mL) chopped fresh asparagus

1. Using chef's knife, cut chicken into bite size pieces and place in bowl. Add ginger, parsley, garlic and pepper and toss to coat well.

2. In soup pot or saucepan, heat oil over medium high heat and cook chicken mixture, stirring constantly for 5 minutes. Stir in red pepper to combine.

3. Add broth and bring to boil. Add orzo and asparagus. Simmer 8 minutes or until orzo is tender and chicken is no longer pink inside.

EMILY RICHARDS

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There's no place like home: Workers would rather telecommute than move

Staying on task while staying put. As more employees opt to work remotely, we consider how to do your best from your own nest

SIDNEYEVE MATRIX
TalentEgg.ca

Recognize what period of your day requires you to have no distractions, and take steps to secure some silence. ISTOCK

If you're a student, a recent grad, or an entrepreneurial startup type, chances are you're well-versed in working from home, at the library, and in various cafés around town.

In a new study conducted by Ipsos Reid on behalf of the Canadian Employee Relocation Council, researchers found that when it comes to the Canadian employment mobility landscape, more than half of those (55 per cent) who are currently employed would not relocate for a job under any circumstance.

Ask those who consider themselves under-employed and the percentage jumps to 6.5 out of 10. That still leaves a considerable percentage of workers who would greatly prefer to stay put, all things considered.

Remote (but tethered) workdays

Considering these figures, more employees and their companies may need to consider telecommuting options and using mobile technology and broadband connections to enable distributed (rather than co-located) teams.

Good news, then, that research shows part-time and flexible work-from-home strategies, if properly implemented, can have a positive impact for both businesses and staff.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sociologists at the University of Minnesota have published a study showing that increased flexibility at work results in wide-ranging benefits.

Those study participants who were allowed to modify when and where they worked experienced fewer family-work conflicts, achieved greater well-being due to a sense of schedule control, and developed a stronger more supportive relationship with their supervisors.

Set the scene for agile productivity

- When you're mobile and working out-of-home, an extra portable battery charger for tablets and phones is a lifesaver.

Before buying, read the fine print and user reviews to determine whether it will charge your gadget batteries once, twice, or 10 times.

- To work smarter on your smartphone, load it up with time-tracking, list-making, product-managing apps.
- If you're in charge of your own schedule, be sure to determine your optimal working hours, and set clear boundaries (including with family and friends) to protect your personal prime time.
- To manage distractions at home or out-and-about, the combination of a social site blocker and some noise-cancelling headphones will put and keep you in the zone.
- If you're lucky enough to have dedicated office space at home, protect your body from soreness, numbness or strain by doing a little research into economical and ergonomically correct office furnishings.
- For an added productivity boost, paint one wall green. "Seeing greens on surfaces has been linked to thinking creatively," advises design and environmental psychologist Sally Augustin.
- Not ready to paint your walls? Get an office plant instead, to add a touch of greenery to your space, and because research indicates that sharing your desk with foliage or flowers will make you feel happier, too.

I dream in green

"Seeing greens on surfaces has been linked to thinking creatively."

Sally Augustin
design and environmental psychologist

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Seeking success in spreading the word

Masters of making things known. Have you considered a career in content marketing?

SHAHEERAH KAYANI
TalentEgg.ca

With a growing amount of content online, content marketers are in demand now more than ever before. Content marketing is all about providing valuable information or content to current and potential customers to build relationships, consumer trust, branding, and awareness.

According to HubSpot's 2013 State of Inbound Marketing Report, 60 per cent of firms are already using content marketing somewhere in their overall marketing strategy.

Here are four reasons why you should consider a career in content marketing:

Join a forward-thinking field

Content marketing is still pretty new and it is constantly changing.

Companies that use content marketing will see plenty of changes in both marketing methods and technologies in order to innovate new ways of executing content marketing. It's an exciting time to get on board as a content marketer.

Use your creative flair

As a content marketer, you get to use your creativity to create great content: everything from blogs and videos, to social media contests and infographics. ISTOCK

Content marketing is all about finding new ways to market ideas and information.

The end goal? Connect to your audience to get traffic and leads.

Innovate and enjoy variety

Since content marketing is a dynamic field, you'll be able to bring new ideas to work every single day.

No matter where you go to work as a content marketer, you'll work on a variety of different topics — even if they share an overarching focus.

Connect with others and network

As a content marketer, you will need to know how to ask the right questions, find newsworthy stories and valuable marketing insights.

Whether it's online or in-person, working in content marketing will connect you with a wide variety of people in your related industry. It's a great way to build your network.

What skills do you need to succeed as a content marketer?

- Writing and editing skills
- Experience with content management software such as WordPress, Drupal and Blogger
- The ability to collaborate across departments and teams
- Previous marketing experience
- Knowledge and good understanding of sales and marketing structure
- Experience with search engine optimization tools such as link-building, Google AdWords and Google Analytics
- Skills in creating video content
- Tech-savvy and experience with all major social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Polyvore, Pinterest, and Instagram

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First Student

Rookie Yordano Ventura's ability to throw 100 m.p.h.-plus fastballs has earned him the nickname "Ace" in Kansas City. Scan the image below to vote on what you think is the best sports nickname.

MLB

Fielder undergoes neck surgery

Prince Fielder is recovering from neck surgery and not expected to play again this season for the Texas Rangers.

Fielder had a cervical fusion of the C5 and C6 disks in his neck Tuesday. The Rangers say the surgery performed in Dallas by specialist Dr. Drew Dossett went as expected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Royals get good news from young pitcher's MRI exam

Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura will miss his next start after an MRI exam taken Tuesday on his sore right elbow showed no ligament damage.

Ventura, whose 100 m.p.h. fastballs have made him a rising star, was removed from Monday night's loss to Houston with discomfort in his elbow.

He was diagnosed with a mild valgus extension overload, a condition in which the repetitive stress on the elbow can cause pain in the joint. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura
JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Rene Bourque celebrates one of his three goals on Tuesday night as Montreal stayed alive with a Game 5 win over the New York Rangers.
FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLEPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Habs still afloat after turbulent Game 5

NHL playoffs. Spotty goaltending on both ends makes for wild night as Montreal avoids elimination

Game 5

Canadiens	Rangers
7	4

Rene Bourque scored three goals as the Montreal Canadiens chased goalie Henrik Lundqvist and defeated the New York Rangers 7-4 on Tuesday to stave off elimination in the NHL Eastern Conference final.

The Rangers, who lead the series 3-2, will have another chance to book a trip to the Stanley Cup final in Game 6 on Thursday night in New York.

Alex Galchenyuk, Tomas Plekanec and Max Pacioretty also scored for Montreal, which outshot the Rangers 28-27

Derek Stepan, playing with a guard on his helmet to protect a broken jaw suffered from a Brandon Prust hit in Game 3, returned to the lineup to score twice for the Rangers. Chris Kreider had a goal and three assists and Rick Nash also scored.

At 10:41 of the third, Rangers defenceman John Moore was given a major penalty and was ejected for a blindside, open ice hit on Dale Weise that was almost identical to Prust's hit on Stepan.

It was a night of strange bounces and spotty goaltending. Lundqvist was pulled in favour of Cam Talbot after allowing four goals on 18 shots, while Dustin Tokarski stayed in despite allowing four on his first 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Li Na returns a shot against Kristina Mladenovic at the French Open in Paris on Tuesday. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

French Open. Grand Slam champs Li Na, Wawrinka stunned in first round

Much to her dismay, Li Na is familiar with this feeling.

She earns a Grand Slam championship, is heralded at home, then shows up at subsequent major tournaments and seemingly forgets how to win.

It happened in 2011, after her French Open triumph made her China's first player with a Grand Slam singles title. Happened again Tuesday, when Li was seeded second at Roland Garros but lost to someone ranked 103rd in the first round, not quite four months removed from winning the Australian Open.

"I didn't follow the game plan," Li said. "Didn't have any idea how to play."

Her 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 exit against Kristina Mladenovic of France in front a partisan crowd on a cloudy, windy Day 3 came about 16 hours after the men's Australian Open champion, third-seeded Stan Wawrinka, was beaten in Paris — making this French Open already unlike any Grand Slam tournament in history.

It's the first time that the men's and women's singles champions from the previous major lost in the first round.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians ousted

Aleksandra Wozniak and Sharon Fichman were defeated Tuesday in the French Open first round, leaving 18th seed Eugenie Bouchard as the last Canadian in the women's draw.

- Wozniak wasted a match point in her 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-2 first-round loss to Romania's Sorana Cirstea.
- Toronto's Fichman lost to sixth seed Jelena Jankovic 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

Jays' power display makes it 8 straight

MLB. Buehrle wins his league-best 9th game, team sets up chance for third straight sweep

The Blue Jays dugout reacts after Edwin Encarnacion hit a home run against the Rays on Tuesday at Rogers Centre. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Blue Jays belted three homers and Mark Buehrle picked up his major-league leading ninth win as Toronto extended its winning streak to eight games Tuesday with a 9-6 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Adam Lind, Edwin Encarnacion and Juan Francisco homered for the American League East-leading Blue Jays, who had 13 hits on the night. Buehrle (9-1) allowed eight hits and three earned runs over 6 2/3 innings.

Lind and Encarnacion hit back-to-back shots in Toronto's four-run fifth inning. Lind hit a two-run blast and Encarnacion followed with his 16th homer of the season, giving him a share of the major-league lead with Baltimore's Nelson Cruz.

Encarnacion also tied Jose Bautista's club record of 14 homers in a month, set back in June 2012.

Francisco added a solo shot in the seventh inning and Casey Janssen worked the ninth for his eighth save as Tampa Bay (23-30) lost its second straight game. Toronto (31-22) will go for the sweep of the three-game series on Wednesday night.

On Tuesday

Blue Jays	Rays
9	6

Both Buehrle and Tampa Bay starter Alex Cobb (1-2) were quick and efficient over the first three innings.

The Rays opened the scoring in the fourth when Sean Rodriguez hit a flare that dropped in to shallow left field, allowing Evan Longoria to score from second base. Logan Forsythe made it a two-run game when he scored from third on a Wil Myers groundout.

The Blue Jays pulled even in the bottom half of the frame.

Lind hit a one-out single and Encarnacion walked. After Francisco lined out, Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., drove in Lind with a single and Dioner Navarro brought home Encarnacion with another single.

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IL SALICI

Thunder tie up series vs. Spurs after Ibaka's surge

Serge Ibaka of the Oklahoma City Thunder goes up for a dunk against Danny Green of the San Antonio Spurs in the third quarter during Game 4 of the Western Conference finals at Chesapeake Energy Arena on Tuesday in Oklahoma City. Russell Westbrook had 40 points and 10 assists, and the Thunder beat the Spurs 105-92 on Tuesday night to tie the series at two games apiece. Serge Ibaka added nine points and eight rebounds for the Thunder.

JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

DRIVE

2014 Kia Rondo

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel drive compact 5 or 7-passenger wagon
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre inline four-cylinder with direct gasoline engine (164)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual, six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $23,460

Market position

Despite the popularity of larger crossover vehicles, these tall hatchbacks offer an excellent alternative for those who prefer a compact vehicle. The Rondo's features and quiet ride make it a standout in the category.

Points

- 5-year/100,000 km warranty covers almost everything on the Rondo, while wear items such as wiper blades and brake pads have 1-year/20,000 km coverage.
- Completely redesigned for 2013, the Rondo is currently offered in Canada, but no longer in the United States.
- Fuel consumption of 9.2 L/100 km city and 6.3 highway (with automatic transmission) is best among its direct competitors.

As a hatchback, the Rondo comes with a spacious back end.

Safety

Front, side, and curtain airbags; brake assist and distribution; hill assist control; vehicle stability control; rear view camera and parking sensors on EX trims.

Rondo is a great family choice

Review. The Kia Rondo is a smooth-riding option to accommodate the whole clan

JIL MCINTOSH
wheelbasemedia.com

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

I've always been fond of the so-called "tall wagon," a hatchback that combines the upright seating and practicality of a minivan or SUV, but with the compact footprint of a small car. The Kia Rondo fits the bill, in five-passenger seating, or with an optional third row for seven people.

There are three trim levels, and all use a 2.0-litre, four-cylinder engine that makes 164 horsepower, and 156 lb.-ft. of torque. The base LX trim starts at $21,795 and comes with a six-speed manual transmission, but it's there for price, not sportiness. Most buyers will opt for the smooth-shifting six-speed automatic, optional on the LX, and the only choice on the EX and EX Luxury trims.

The Rondo is spacious and comfortable, while the top-of-the-line seven-seat trim level includes such features as parking sensors, panoramic sunroof, and heated and cooled leather seats for $30,795, with navigation further available as an option.

It isn't the most fun-to-drive car on the market, but the ride is smooth, and it handles corners without feeling tippy despite its height. It's also confident and well-planted on the highway, and you can switch the electric power steering to feel lighter or more weighted, depending on your preference. It's also very quiet, thanks to a considerable amount of sound-deadening material, and visibility is excellent all the way around.

Kia put a lot of thought into the interior, with numerous little items to make life easier for families. The EX models have integrated rear-window sunshades, eliminating the need to use suction-cup versions to protect children from the sun, and there's a rechargeable flashlight in the cargo area. If you get the five-seat model, there's a large, covered storage bin under the cargo floor.

As with most tall wagons, it's easy to get in and out, especially for children or elderly passengers. The third-row's seats are nicely cushioned, but there's really only enough space for children.

Good-looking and thoughtfully engineered, the Rondo could well be a practical alternative to an SUV for many families.

Compare

1 Mazda5
Base price: $21,995
Rondo's closest competitor offers sportier handling, and seating for six.

2 Chevrolet Orlando
Base price: $20,195 Standard three rows and more powerful, but it's thirstier.

3 Dodge Journey
Base price: $21,495
Larger but still well-sized, and available with all-wheel drive.

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A new condo tower in Toronto contains no parking spaces. MIKE GOETZ

You won't find a parking spot at this condo tower

Change in car culture.

42-storey condo first in Toronto to go "no parking," leading national trend

AUTO PILOT
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Another mile marker on the way to big change in automotive culture is a new and soaring 42-floor condominium structure on University Avenue in Toronto.

It offers lots of amenities, a nice selection of counter tops and bathroom tile, a snazzy foyer, but nothing resembling a parking garage.

There are only nine parking spots and those are reserved for a car-share program.

It might be the first new-build condominium in the country to offer "no parking" for all, but it won't be the last.

Municipalities have always enacted bylaws that stipulate how much parking had to be included in new developments. In downtown Toronto, for example, the requirement is 0.6 parking spots per unit. In other areas it could be as high as two spots per unit.

But the pressure is on to get rid of these parking requirements.

To go "no parking," this Toronto condo had to receive special approval from city council. In Calgary, officials are seriously considering green-lighting a condo tower with similar car-free ideals. And in Vancouver, they are moving toward new zoning that would allow developers to make their own calls about whether or not to put parking stalls in their buildings.

"This is the way we're headed," says Christopher Hume, the Toronto Star's architecture and urban affairs critic. "The people who live in these condos don't need or want a car. They choose these apartments and neighbourhoods so they don't have to go through the whole hassle of buying and operating a car."

Like we spoke about previously in this space, there is a young demographic out there which does not share the previous generations' drive for car ownership and car culture. That mindset is now making an impact on building design.

Throw in the growing popularity of such things as car sharing, Uber taxi, bicycling, and the pressure of land use in the city, and it's not hard to see why parking garages might become rarities in more and more urban neighbourhoods in the coming years. Hume adds that architects in the city are even contemplating a future where current underground garages might be re-purposed for other activities, such as studio space and light manufacturing.

As they are currently, parking garages are awful spaces.

Usually I feel nostalgic about anything car related going away. But a dank, filthy, underused underground garage somewhere downtown is not one of them. And I would say that even if I didn't get routinely lost in them. Just for the record, I think "exit" should mean "exit," and not, "go around in a circle a few more times, than try a left ... or right."

Quoted

"This is the way we're headed. The people who live in these condos don't need or want a car. They choose these apartments and neighbourhoods so they don't have to (buy and operate) a car."

Christopher Hume, architecture and urban affairs critic, the Toronto Star

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Be as carefree as you please over the next 24 hours. No one will mind in the least. Not that you care what others think but it's nice to have fun without being called irresponsible.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You must hold out for what it is you know you deserve. The planets indicate it will be your rivals who blink first, so look and act tough and be tough in your approach to negotiations.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
A new moon in your sign suggests whatever you start over the next 24 hours will work out well. Don't listen to those who say you should be cautious. It's your time to shine.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Because today's new moon falls in the most sensitive area of your chart, your best course of action over the next 48 hours is to withdraw from the world for. Start planning for the coming 12 months. They'll be special.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you need advice of any sort today, don't be afraid to ask your friends. The current new moon means they will help in any way they can, but you need to ask them first. They won't just offer their opinions.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A new moon in the career area of your chart will give you the courage to make necessary changes on the work front. It's your life, it's your career and it's your choice as to what you do with them both.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You have a lot to say for yourself and most of it is worth listening to, but be careful you don't say anything that might upset people whose support you are going to need.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you have been thinking of ways to make money, now is the time to come to a decision about your strategy. What you start over the next few days will reap rich rewards during the second half of the year.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It may be that your rivals have the advantage but what happens today and tomorrow will give you the courage, as well as the opportunity, to turn the tables on them.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Keep doing what you are doing and don't listen to those who say you should be doing something else. The more they try to pick holes in your plans, the more certain you can be that you're on the right track.

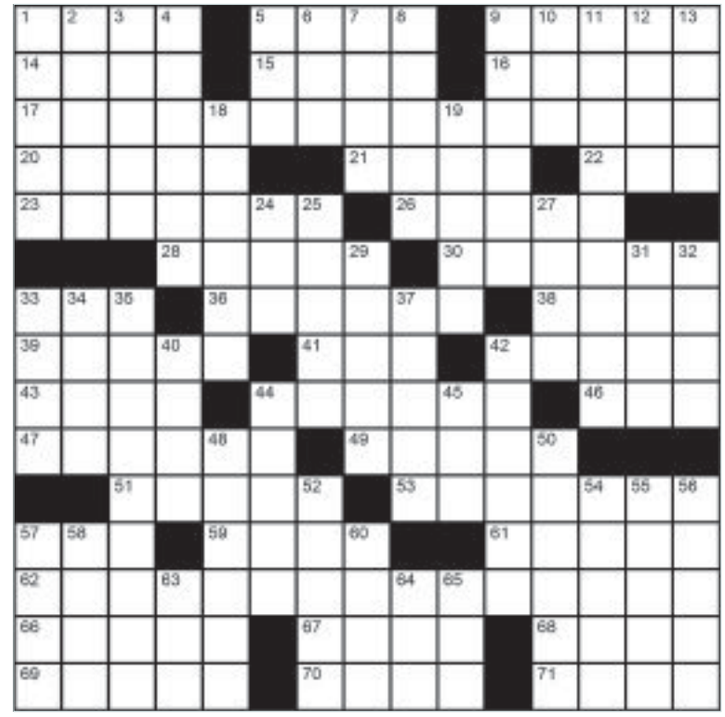
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Today's new moon in your fellow Air sign of Gemini will inspire you to put your talents to good use. Relationships will go well too, so be assertive and dynamic and make sure others know what it is you desire.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be more open about your feelings, especially if you are the kind of Pisces who tends to keep your emotions bottled up inside. It is good to release the pressure. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



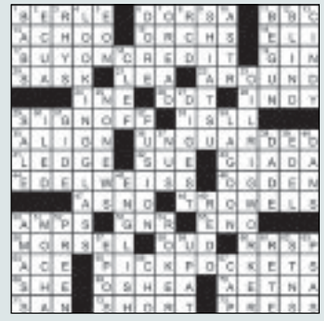
Across

1. School subj.
5. Ancient Scot
9. Rocker David
14. Lebanon's locale
15. Chess piece
16. "Being __" (Canadian series, 2009 to 2011)
17. NBL Canada team: 2 wds.
20. Dude
21. Hockey's Mr. Lindros
22. Music tycoon, Dr. __
23. Shoppers Drug Mart: __ Card
26. Book publisher, __ Canada
28. Carpet: French
30. Metamorphic rock type
33. Dwindle
36. Country singer Mel
38. Lake for the Ontario municipality at #18-Down
39. Medicine Hat born actor Mr. Gerussi
41. 'Peace' suffix (Pacifist)
42. Rocker Mr. Reznor
43. Value
44. "And Muzak filled the air / From __ to Cuyahoga Falls." - The Pretenders, "My City Was Gone"
46. "__ of Love" (1989)
47. Singing span
49. Alberta: __ Oil Sands Project
51. Australia's gemstones
53. Cutely-named flower
57. Canadian author/broadcaster, __-Marie MacDonald
59. Badminton dividers
61. Separately
62. The Band song that starts "You can walk on the water...": 4 wds.
66. Shoelace tip
67. Carry along
68. __-__-for-now!
69. Demurely
70. Nylons nick
71. Brewery beverages

Down

1. Perry Como's "Papa Loves __"
2. "I'll have _ _."(Lunchtime order)
3. Touch of colour
4. Be a survivor: 2 wds.
5. For
6. "Am ___?" (Query from backstage)
7. __ about (Occur)
8. Capt. James _. __
9. Passing ship's guide
10. Grampus
11. Nature's infernos
12. Champagne cooling container
13. Slacken
18. Leamington, the '__ Capital of Canada'
19. Tree growth indicators
24. News agcy.
25. English author A.A.
27. Nobleman
29. Embark embarrassedly
31. Trigonometry ratio
32. Bristle
33. Spain: Zaragoza's river
34. Bric-a-__
35. __-__ jeans
37. Michael McDonald's "_ __ Forgettin' (Every Time You're Near)"
40. Tide type
42. Clan's cloth
44. Tennis great Monica
45. Flight simulators co. headquartered in Saint-Laurent, QC
48. "Nasty Girl" by __ 6 (Trivia! The lead singer of this '80s trio is Canadian)
50. Oscar-winning actress Ms. Nyong'o
52. RBIs, e.g.
54. Warship-related
55. Furious
56. __ Shrugged (Ayn Rand novel)
57. Sorrowful sigh
58. Virtually, in verse
60. Hospital readout
63. Sushi bar's 'Unagi'
64. Jennifer Lopez _ _ J.Lo
65. Mr. Philbin, to pals

Yesterday's Crossword



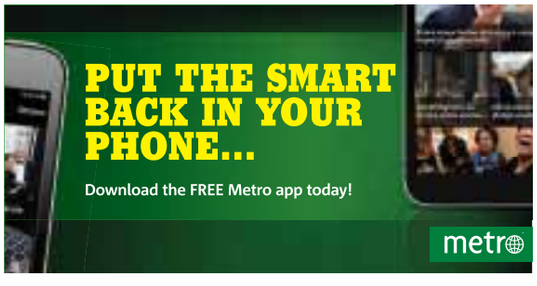
Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	9	4					7	
6	3		1	7				
					2	6		1
						4	8	6
	5						3	
9	2	6						
7		9	5					
				4	1		2	7
	8					5	4	

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	8	7	5	1	4	6	2	9
1	9	5	3	2	6	8	4	7
4	2	6	7	8	9	1	5	3
5	6	8	1	9	2	3	7	4
7	4	9	8	6	3	5	1	2
2	1	3	4	7	5	9	6	8
6	3	4	2	5	8	7	9	1
9	7	2	6	3	1	4	8	5
8	5	1	9	4	7	2	3	6



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Don't get us wrong. A low rate is great. But most low rate mortgages come with restrictive terms that could keep you in your mortgage longer than you'd like. Which means paying interest longer than you'd like. So, instead of thinking about the cost of your mortgage in rate terms, think about it in dollar terms. For example, how much interest will you pay over the life of your mortgage?

How restrictive terms cost you in the end.

The key to saving interest costs is having the flexibility to increase payments or make extra payments. With rates as low as they are, regular lump sum and increased payments will save you more interest over the life of your mortgage. Even more than switching to bi-weekly payments![†]

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